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Maine DHHS Office of Child and Family Services to Hold Public Forums on Child Welfare

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services announced today a series of public forums designed to solicit feedback from the public about efforts undertaken by the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) to improve the child welfare system.

These town hall meetings will be conducted virtually to ensure health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The primary focus is on improving outcomes for Maine children and families who are involved with the child welfare system. No case-specific information will be discussed due to confidentiality, but OCFS welcomes discussion on local services, child safety and well-being, and efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Four forums are scheduled, each focusing on a specific geographic area. Individuals should register for a forum based on their county of residence. Pre-registration is required.

- [Wednesday, October 7th](#) 5:00-6:30 p.m.: for residents of Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and York counties
- [Wednesday, October 14th](#) 5:00-6:30 p.m.: for residents of Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, and Somerset counties
- [Wednesday, October 21st](#) 5:00-6:30 p.m.: Residents of Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, and Washington counties
- [Wednesday, October 28th](#) 5:00-6:30 p.m.: Residents of Aroostook, Penobscot, and Piscataquis counties

The Office of Child and Family services remains committed to improvements in the child welfare system which ensure the safety and well-being children and the rights of parents to raise their children whenever safely possible. To that end, OCFS has bolstered child welfare staff, evaluated caseloads, developed or improved training and tools available to staff to improve decision making, engaged parents and family members, and emphasized timely permanency for children.